

Appl. No. 10/753,087
Amdt. Dated February 6, 2006
Supplemental Reply to Office Action
of September 8, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 89285.0005
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS

Claims 12, 15, and 17 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in the phone interview held on January 31, 2006. New dependent claim 21 is introduced. The subject matter of claim 21 is the same as that of the original claim 15. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-15 and 17-21 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

The applicants wish to thank Examiner Chen for the courtesies extended in the interview held on January 31, 2006 regarding the Advisory Action dated January 17, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed that independent claims 1, 9, and 20 and their dependent claims are free of prior art. The Examiner also confirmed that dependent claims 12-13, as dependent on all pending independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 20, are free of prior art. The Examiner noted that these claims would be allowable if applicants file a Terminal Disclaimer to disclaim the terminal part of a patent granted on the co-pending Application No. 10/430,352. With respect to rejection of claim 17 under 35 USC, second paragraph, the Examiner stated that the rejection can be overcome by correcting dependence of claim 17 (prior to the instant amendment, claim 17 was dependent from canceled claim 16).

Although applicants believe that claim 15 in its current form is patentable over cited art for the reasons expressed in the applicants' previous response, in order to expedite allowance of the case, applicants amended claim 15 to include all limitations of allowable claim 12. Because the Examiner found claim 12 (as

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dependent from claim 15) to be free of prior art, the amended claim 15 is free from prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 12. Additionally, applicants added new claim 21 dependent from allowable claims 1, 9, and 20 and having the same subject matter as the original claim 15. Furthermore, applicants are filing herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.321 (c).

While reviewing the prosecution file, applicants have noticed that several references that were submitted to the Japanese Patent Office during prosecution of the related application were not provided to the Examiner. Applicants wish to correct this inadvertent mistake by filing herewith an IDS that includes the omitted Japanese publications with their English language abstracts. Applicants believe that none of the submitted references affect patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4632 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: February 6, 2006
By: 
Olga Berson
Registration No. 55,001
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue
Suite 1900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel. (213) 337-6700
Fax (213) 337-6701